

# OREGON CROP WEATHER



OREGON  
AGRICULTURAL  
STATISTICS  
SERVICE

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**Weather:** Unseasonably warm and dry conditions continued over the State last week. Precipitation was non-existent in most areas. The warm weather has allowed fieldwork to progress ahead of schedule in some areas. High temperatures reached the lower eighties in western Oregon and the upper seventies in several eastern Oregon areas. The warm nights in the Willamette Valley are limiting the need for frost fans. The Dalles recorded 60 growing degree days (Base 50F), highest for the week.

**Field Crops:** Spring wheat and barley planting was in full swing last week. Dry weather across much of the State allowed for good planting progress. However, many areas haven't had significant precipitation since mid-March and that was having an adverse effect on already emerged crops. Early irrigation started in Baker and Umatilla counties because of the dry conditions. Above normal temperatures accelerated crop growth Statewide. Herbicide applications to grain and grass crops got underway in some areas, especially in the west.

**Vegetables:** In western regions of the State, fields were being prepared for sweet corn, tomatoes and other vegetable crops. Garlic, shallots, late potatoes, chard and kale was showing up at farmers' markets. In Washington County, rhubarb was ready to eat and green peas were reported to be growing rapidly. In Central Oregon, winter protective fabric was being removed from carrots.

**Nurseries and Greenhouses:** Greenhouse and nursery activity was in full swing with most greenhouses opened and showing good color. Lots of planting, moving of plants, irrigation and watering containers going on. Weather has been very good for sales. Plastic shields were being installed and growers were busy digging ornamentals and shipping plants.

**Livestock, Range and Pasture:** Early spring conditions on livestock and pasture land are good in Clackamas, Marion and Washington counties. Conditions are fair to good in north central areas of the State. Low soil moisture in Malheur County is limiting pasture growth. Branding is underway in Baker County and calving is winding down there. Marking and vaccination of early calves in Wasco County is ongoing. Some flooding along the Grande Ronde River in Union County occurred, mainly affecting pasture land there. Supplemental feed and feeding of hay is being reduced there as grass becomes more abundant.

**Fruit and Nuts:** Unseasonably warm weather has advanced many fruits throughout the State with the help of increased bee activity. Sherman County fruit trees were about two weeks ahead of schedule and Yamhill County was 10 to 12 days ahead of schedule. Marion County fruits and berries were also ahead of schedule and showed a heavy fruit set. Wasco County sweet cherry trees have enjoyed ideal pollination weather. Fruit trees around The Dalles have reached full bloom and are starting to leaf out. Willamette Valley fruit trees were in various stages of bloom. Apples were in bloom, pears were past bloom, and peaches were near shuck fall. Washington County strawberries were experiencing a lush growth spurt. Clackamas County strawberries were being planted, while others were starting to bloom. Southern Valley strawberries, blackberries, and raspberries were still waiting for bloom. Southern coast blueberries were in bloom with bacterial canker a problem in some fields. Fruit trees in Jackson and Josephine counties were in bloom; most pear varieties were past bloom.

**Crop Progress - Week Ending 4/11/04**

	This week	Previous week	Last year	5 year average
Barley planted (%)	65	60	50	66
Barley emerged (%)	36	32	22	—
Spring wheat planted (%)	68	62	70	68
Spring wheat emerged (%)	33	25	38	—
Days suitable for fieldwork	7.0	6.8	—	—

**Soil Moisture - Week Ending 4/11/04**

	Very Short	Short	Adequate	Surplus
Topsoil (%)	7	35	53	5
Subsoil (%)	4	24	70	2

**Crop Condition - Week Ending 4/11/04**

	Very Poor	Poor	Fair	Good	Excellent
Winter Wheat (%)	1	6	37	42	14
Barley (%)	—	3	43	44	10
Range & Pasture (%)	5	11	42	32	10

**CLACKAMAS:** Fertilizer and herbicide applications going on winter grains and hay fields. Bartlett pears past bloom. Apples blooming. Caneberries leafing out. Some bloom starting to show on strawberries; new plantings going in. Nurseries starting to irrigate; lots of moving and planting underway. Pastures and livestock are in good condition.

**COOS/CURRY:** Blueberries were in bloom; bacterial canker a problem in some fields. "Stevens" variety cranberry was in hook stage at several farms; crop development was advanced from normal; first brood blackheaded fireworm larvae were observed at several cranberry farms close to the ocean. Easter lily growers evaluated breeding stock at the Easter Lily Research Foundation experimental station. Bottomland grazing was widespread due to drier than normal conditions. A high temperature event, coupled with low humidity, occurred on April 10. Maximum air temperature at Bandon AgriMet was 87.4 deg F and minimum relative humidity was 15.0 percent. Sheltered cranberry crop level maximum temperature was 89.2 deg F. Average air temperatures at coastal AgriMet weather stations ranged from 52.8 to 53.1 deg F; highs ranged from 79.7 to 87.4 deg F, and lows ranged from 42.5 to 43.7 deg F. Precipitation was 0.00" at both Bandon and Brookings-Harbor. Growing degree days (base 50 deg F) ranged from 40 GDD at Bandon to 44 GDD at Brookings-Harbor. Unseasonable weather persisted for the period. Low temperatures for the week were 3 to 5 degrees above the 5 year average, and highs were 17 to 28 degrees above the average for both Coos and Curry counties.

**JACKSON:** Final seeding of grains being made. Fertilizing of grain and grasses underway. Most pear varieties are post bloom and petal fall sprays for rust mite and fire blight are being applied. Warm days and warm nights are reducing frost protection. Pollination weather for all varieties very good. Soils are drying out and irrigation is being started. Fields being prepared for sweet corn, tomatoes, and other vegetable crops.

**JOSEPHINE:** We had beautiful weather all week, very warm and mild. Mornings brisk with two hard frosts. All fruit trees are in bloom now. Bees are working. Our spring flowers are about two weeks ahead of time so we will not have flowers for Mothers Day. We have been very dry and should be getting some rain soon. Growers are busy plowing, planting, fertilizing, and spraying pasture and hay crops. Nurseries are doing good business right now and are busy watering containers. Greenhouses are all open and showing good color.

**LANE/LINN/BENTON:** Mint growing nicely. Sugarbeet seed survived the winter. Prunes near end of bloom; pears in full bloom. Cherries in full bloom to near done; Asian pear in full bloom. Peaches are still a very good crop; near shuck fall. Early apples in full bloom; other apples pink. Blueberries nearing end of bloom; mediocre crop. Strawberry, blackberry and raspberry still waiting for bloom. Greenhouse crops being harvested. Garlic, shallots, late years potatoes, onion, chard and kale showing up at farmers markets. Greenhouse and nursery crops in full swing. Some nurseries saying sales are up 30 to 50 percent with the weather. General trend is pointing to below average. Grass seed crops are two weeks ahead of normal. Unusually warm and dry conditions in March have accelerated grass growth. We will be vulnerable to late frost damage. Need more rain in late April and May.

**MARION:** The dry, warm weather has allowed spring fieldwork to occur ahead of schedule. It has advanced growth somewhat earlier than normal, but cool, wet weather in the near future could easily slow growth back to a more normal level. A little irrigation of a few grass seed fields being done. May begin seeing early disease pressure on some seed fields. All fruit and berry crops are developing ahead of normal and are setting heavily. Weather has been unusually warm and dry for this time of year. All crops and cropping activities appear good now, but more moisture will be needed soon. Livestock look very good. Blueberries are in full bloom. Some frost fans are in use.

**POLK:** Dry conditions continue to persist throughout the county. Fields are being worked to plant spring crops. Some areas have experienced frost at night

**WASHINGTON:** Legume growth best in years; winter wheat doing remarkable. Growth on well drained soils. Strawberries having lush growing spurt; prunes, cherries, pears and apples having the best bloom in years; hazelnuts may have bumper crop. Rhubarb is edible; vegetables nearing planting time; green peas growing rapidly. New nursery crops planted and plastic shields installed; rotating potted plants, digging ornamentals and shipping some plants. Pastures doing well for this early spring. No rain with highs in low eighties and lows in low forties. Early irrigation season starting; corn fields being prepared. Grapes beginning to leaf out.

**YAMHILL:** Warm weather during fruit tree bloom has increased bee activity, setting the stage for good fruit set in all of the tree fruits. Bloom sprays are being applied for disease control. Most fruit tree species bloomed 10 to 12 days in advance of average this season.

## EASTERN OREGON

**BAKER:** Still just field preparations and grain planting as the main activities. Some irrigation started. Bedding plants maturing nicely. Some early shipping has started. Cattle look good. Branding underway. Calving winding down. It's too warm, dry, and windy.

**CROOK/DESCHUTES/JEFFERSON:** Spring planting continuing. Male carrots were having winter protective fabric removed.

**LAKE:** Cool morning temperatures with warm afternoons. No precipitation for the week.

**MALHEUR:** Range conditions are very dry and growth is limited as a result of low soil moisture. Irrigation started last week so irrigated pasture will be coming on better.

**MORROW:** Summer fallow fieldwork continues. Spring crops are emerging nicely; however, lack of significant rainfall in March will have dire effects on the wheat crop in general and especially spring seeded crops. One rain gauge station operated by an lone farmer reported second driest March in 29 years.

**SHERMAN:** Spring planting and fieldwork almost done. Winter wheat is looking better since warmer weather and the roots are hitting the nitrogen layer. More precipitation would be nice; crop year average is 90 percent of normal. Range & pasture looks fair to good. Fruit trees along the river areas are blooming about two weeks early.

**UMATILLA:** Asparagus harvest has started two weeks early this year. Warmer and dryer than normal conditions have required farmers to start irrigating early and are causing problems with all dryland spring planted crops. Branding and turnout to spring pastures continue. Weather unseasonably warm and dry. Spring pastures need a good soaking rain.

**UNION:** Some low-lying areas along the Grande Ronde River remain flooded; however, since these same areas always seem to flood this time of year, it is mainly pasture land that is affected. Fieldwork and spring planting continues. Irrigation ditches and systems are being tested/prepared for use in the near future. Feeding of hay and other feeds to livestock is tapering off as grass is becoming more and more plentiful. It is a beautiful time to be in eastern Oregon, with pleasant days and cool evenings. No hint of significant moisture from the air has been around (great for vacationing, but not so good for farming), but the snowpack in the mountains is still looking adequate. High winds are periodically causing some soil erosion from recently tilled fields, but this should diminish as crops begin to come in.

**WALLOWA:** Some areas received rain on Monday and Tuesday, but unfortunately, not all producers were that lucky. Range conditions are starting to be noticeable, so will report on them next week. Spring field preparation is continuing.

**WASCO:** Weather has been ideal for pollination of sweet cherries. Temperatures have been in the sixties and seventies with little wind and little or no frost. Bee activity has been good. Warm weather prevailed over much of the week and fieldwork was active all week. Alfalfa growth was starting to bolt in height. Most fruit trees around The Dalles have reached full bloom and are starting to leaf out. Cherry trees in the Dufur area are about two weeks later in their stage of blooming. Nighttime temperatures held in the high thirties and low forties and only limited use of frost fans were needed. Cattle are enjoying the lush pasture grasses. A few cattlemen are marking and vaccinating their early calves. Precipitation is needed to hold topsoil moisture at a good level. Hilly pastures are starting to lose their uniform green color and are showing yellow and red areas.

**WEATHER DATA FOR SELECTED STATIONS IN OREGON WEEK ENDING April 11, 2004 (as of 11:00 am)**

STATION	AIR TEMPERATURE				GROWING DEGREE DAYS BASE-50F		LAST WEEK PRECIP			SEASON CUM PRECIPITATION			
	LO	HI	AVG	DFN	TOTAL	DFN	TOTAL INCHES	DFN	DAYS	TOTAL INCHES	DFN	PCT NORMAL	DAYS
<b>COASTAL AREAS</b>													
Astoria/Clatsop	35	77	53	6	27	20	0.07	-1.11	1	53.10	-2.91	95	144
Crescent City	42	73	53	4	21	0	0.00	-1.22	0	48.55	-8.71	85	121
Florence	35	84	54	6	27	19	0.00	-1.39	0	60.82	-4.46	93	138
North Bend	39	84	55	7	37	26	0.00	-1.21	0	56.12	1.17	102	135
Tillamook	32	79	53	7	30	23	0.00	-1.56	0	68.16	-6.24	92	148
<b>WILLAMETTE VALLEY</b>													
Corvallis	39	82	57	9	50	36	0.00	-0.66	0	26.33	-10.44	72	104
Eugene	35	81	54	5	30	15	0.00	-0.81	0	32.15	-10.41	76	117
Hillsboro	39	81	55	7	34	20	0.00	-0.56	0	25.96	-5.87	82	121
McMinnville	35	79	55	7	40	26	0.00	-0.66	0	27.58	-10.15	73	119
Portland AP	42	80	58	9	55	39	0.00	-0.60	0	24.74	-4.97	83	116
Salem	36	81	54	7	35	22	0.00	-0.61	0	31.63	-1.68	95	123
<b>SW VALLEYS</b>													
Grants Pass	39	83	57	6	51	24	0.00	-0.47	0	25.29	-2.40	91	94
Medford	38	83	58	9	56	35	0.00	-0.28	0	16.98	1.13	107	93
Roseburg AP	38	86	58	8	53	31	0.00	-0.58	0	28.76	0.61	102	113
<b>NORTH CENTRAL</b>													
Condon	29	69	49	7	6	-1	0.00	-0.28	0	12.42	2.49	125	66
Heppner	33	71	52	6	17	4	0.01	-0.30	1	9.13	-0.64	93	90
Hermiston AP	30	79	54	4	30	9	0.00	-0.20	0	6.94	0.06	101	66
John Day	25	72	51	7	11	0	0.00	-0.28	0	6.93	-1.28	84	80
Moro	35	69	52	8	18	11	0.00	-0.21	0	8.75	0.19	102	68
Pendleton AP	35	78	54	6	31	14	0.00	-0.28	0	9.04	0.09	101	71
The Dalles	38	80	58	13	60	49	0.00	-0.21	0	11.55	1.52	115	84
<b>SOUTH CENTRAL</b>													
Bend	28	67	47	6	2	-5	0.00	-0.14	0	9.93	1.29	115	61
Burns AP	28	69	51	10	12	5	0.27	0.13	1	6.64	-0.08	99	65
Klamath Falls	23	72	48	6	2	-5	0.00	-0.21	0	10.04	-0.57	95	80
Lakeview	28	70	48	7	1	-6	0.00	-0.28	0	7.96	-3.46	70	48
Redmond	23	79	48	6	4	-3	0.00	-0.14	0	6.70	0.91	116	63
<b>NORTHEAST</b>													
Baker City	22	70	49	6	5	-2	0.00	-0.14	0	4.43	-1.75	72	63
Joseph	25	67	46	7	2	-3	0.23	-0.19	2	8.16	-9.90	45	81
La Grande AP	28	73	51	6	13	2	0.01	-0.34	1	7.30	-4.75	61	68
Union	28	70	50	6	11	3	0.00	-0.28	0	8.58	0.30	104	85
<b>SOUTHEAST</b>													
Ontario	32	75	58	9	55	33	0.00	-0.14	0	6.19	-1.04	86	50
Rome	27	75	51	7	18	8	0.06	-0.09	1	3.76	-1.27	75	50

Summary based on National Weather Service data.

Season Cumulative Precip Starts: Monday, September 1, 2003.

DFN=Departure from normal (using 1961-90 normals period).

Precipitation Days = Days with precipitation of 0.01 inch or more.

Precipitation (rain or melted snow/ice) in inches.

Air Temperatures in Degrees Fahrenheit.

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